

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 9 are independent claims. By this reply, claims 1, 3, 7, 8 and 9 are amended. Claim 6 is canceled without any intent of prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claims 13 and 14 are added. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that the “identification component” recited in independent claims 1 and 9 is supported by at least reference number 17 in Applicant’s FIG. 2. The “identification component” may be an identification key, a fob, an “identification card” (as recited in claims 7 and 13), or any other tangible device that may be inserted into the card holder 18.

Claim Objections

Claims 6-8 and 12 stand objected to as being in improper form. Applicant cancelled claim 6 to overcome this objection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-5 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the claim 1 limitation “based on master slave principle” is vague and fails to set forth a clear patentable limitation. Also, regarding claim 3, the Examiner asserts that it is not clear how the communication means can be “for contact with the control” if said means is “of a wireless type”. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

With regard to claim 1, Applicant has amended the claim to include the limitation “wherein a selected lifting column, being the first selected column for a sub-group, is as a result of first selection thereof a master lifting column to control the remaining slave lifting column or columns in the sub-group,” such that the phrase “based on master slave principles” is now clearly descript and defined.

With regard to claim 3, Applicant has amended the claim to read “wherein the communication means are of a wireless type for controlling the lifting column”. Applicant

believes that this amendment alleviates any unclear or indefinite language. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 - Baker

Claims 1-5 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Baker et al.'s U.S. Patent No. 6,634,461 ("Baker"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

With regard to independent claim 1, Applicant submits that Baker does not teach at least "wherein the selection means of a slave column is adapted to read and adopt an identification for the purpose of selecting the slave column in a sub-group associated with the master column, and for thereafter addressing the slave column in the process of lifting the object, wherein the identification is readable from an *identification component* associated with the master column" (emphasis added). Applicant submits that Baker does not teach "wherein the identification is readable from an identification component". While Baker teaches a "unique identifier" that "may be in the form of a serial number" (column 7, lines 36-37), Baker does not teach a tangible "identification component" (such as an identification key, or an "identification card" as recited in Applicant's claims 7 and 13). Baker teaches an intangible "unique identifier" (i.e., a "serial number"), which is not an "identification component".

Still further, with regard to dependent claim 7, Applicant submits that Baker does not teach at least "the identification component is an *identification card*", for at least the reasons stated above relating to independent claim 1.

With regard to independent claim 9, Applicant submits that Baker does not teach at least "wherein a selection of a slave column includes reading and adopting an identification for the purpose of selecting the slave column in a sub-group associated with the master column, and for thereafter addressing the slave column in the process of lifting the object, wherein reading the identification is performed from an *identification component* associated with the master column" (emphasis added), for at least the reasons stated above relating to independent claim 1.

Still further, with regard to new dependent claim 13, Applicant submits that Baker does not teach at least "the identification component is an *identification card*" (emphasis added), for at least the reasons stated above relating to independent claim 1.

For at least the reasons state above, Applicant believes that independent claim 1 and 9 and dependent claims 7 and 13 are patentable. For at least the same reasons, Applicant believes that dependent claims 2-5 and 10-11 are also patentable. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests removal of this art grounds of rejection.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 – Berends in view of Baker

Claims 1-5 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Berends et al.'s U.S. Patent No. 6,315,079 ("Berends") in view of Baker. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

With regard to independent claims 1 and 9, Applicant submits that the deficiencies of Baker, discussed in the §102 rejections above, are not resolved with the addition of Berends, as neither Baker nor Berends teach a tangible "identification component". Similar to the claim 1 discussion above relating to Baker, Berends teaches only a "serial number" identifier (described in column 3, lines 36-38) to be used to identify a column. Assuming, arguendo, that Baker can be combined with Berends (which Applicant does not admit), Applicant submit that the combination still would not teach Applicant's claim 1 or 9, as neither Baker nor Berends teach an "identification component".

With regard to dependent claims 7 and 13, Applicant submits that the deficiencies of Baker, discussed in the §102 rejections above, are not resolved with the addition of Berends, as neither Baker nor Berends teach "the identification component is an identification card".

For at least the reasons stated above, Applicant believes that independent claims 1 and 9 and dependent claims 7 and 13 are patentable. For at least the same reasons, Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-5 and 10-11 are also patentable.

New Claims

Claim 13 has been added to limit the "identification component" of independent claim 9 to an "identification card".

Claim 14 has been added to further limit the "identification" of claim 9.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully submit that each of the rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

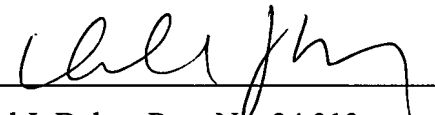
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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